

What is claimed is:

1. A system for configuring Internet appliances, comprising:
 - a server having a connection to a network;
 - 5 a data repository accessible by the server, and comprising data related to Internet appliances to be configured; and
 - control routines for configuring Internet appliances via the network connection;
 - wherein, upon receiving a request from an Internet appliance via the network connection the control routines consult the database for correct procedure, and
 - 10 interact with the appliance via the network connection to configure the appliance for Internet access and operation.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the network connection comprises a COST network.
- 15 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the dial-up server further comprises an Internet connection, and information from the Internet is used in configuring Internet appliances.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the control routines in the server interact with compatible control routines pre-programmed in the Internet appliance during
- 20 configuration.
5. An Internet appliance comprising:
 - a network connection port; and
 - pre-programmed configuration routines,
 - 25 wherein, upon connection to the network and initiation by the user the appliance initiates a communication with a configuration server connected to the network, and interacts with compatible routines executing on the server to configure the appliance

6. The Internet appliance of claim 5 wherein the network is a connection-type telephone network.
7. The Internet appliance of claim 6 wherein based on the initiation of the connection the
5 server selects the appropriate routines to service the particular Internet appliance.
8. A method for configuring an Internet appliance, comprising steps of:
- (a) pre-programming the Internet appliance having a network port with first configuration routines adapted to interact with a remote network configuration server
10 having second configuration;
 - (b) connecting the Internet appliance by the network port to a compatible network;
 - (c) providing an initiation signal at the Internet appliance, the signal causing the appliance to establish communication and initiate interaction with the configuration
15 server; and
 - (d) configuring the Internet appliance for Internet access by interaction of the first and second configuration routines.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein, in step (a) the network is a connection-type telephony
20 network.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein in step (d) the configuration server uses ANI and DNIS to launch specific configuration routines adapted for the particular appliance.